

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 5-7 are independent and hereby amended. No new matter has been added. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENT IN SPECIFICATION

Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed and specifically at paragraphs [0202]-[0203], Fig 18 and Fig. 19 of Applicants' corresponding published application. By way of example and not limitation:

[0202] If the NEW button 223 is selected on the TV program information management screen of FIG. 14, then a scheduled date setting screen for TV program information acquisition of FIG. 18 is displayed for the user to make a new registration. On the screen, the user first calls up a calendar of a desired month by selecting the month and the year. **In the calendar, the user chooses a desired date for which to acquire TV program information. If the user wants to obtain today's TV program information,** selecting a TODAY button 252 generates a command designating this day as

the date for which TV program information needs to be acquired.
Selecting a CANCEL button 251 terminates the operation.

[0203] If the user selects any past date, a window 255 appears carrying a message such as "Download of any past TV program information cannot be preset," as shown in FIG. 19.

FIG. 18

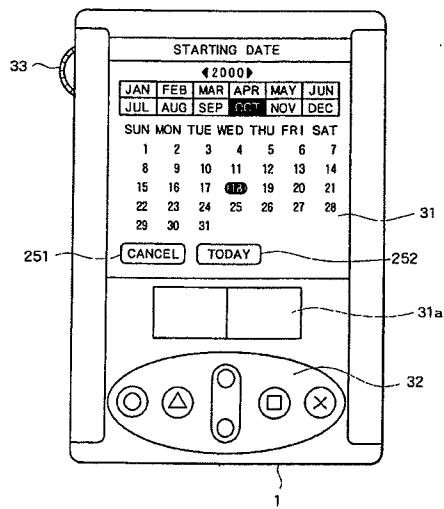
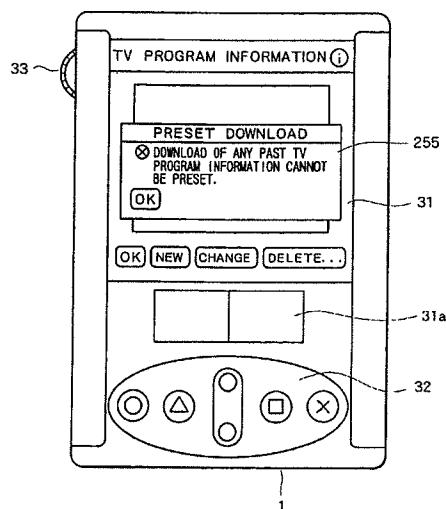


FIG. 19



III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,870,570 to Bowser (hereinafter, merely “Bowser”) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0011373 to Inoue (hereinafter, merely “Inoue”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,670,971 to Oral (hereinafter, merely “Oral”) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,536,041 to Knudson, et al. (hereinafter, merely “Knudson”).

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

...acquiring means for acquiring a plurality of pieces of program information about programs to be broadcast on a plurality of scheduled dates selected by a user,

wherein the plurality of scheduled dates include a current date, past dates and future dates..... (Emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Inoue relates to an EPG (Electronic Program Guide).

Applicants submit that neither Bowser nor Inoue nor Oral nor Knudson, taken alone or in combination, would disclose or render predictable the above-identified features of claim 1. Specifically, none of the references used as a basis for rejection discloses or renders predictable “acquiring means for acquiring a plurality of pieces of program information about programs to be broadcast on a plurality of scheduled dates selected by a user, wherein **the plurality of scheduled dates include a current date, past dates and future dates**,” as recited in claim 1.

Specifically, the Office Action (see page 3) concedes that Bowser does not disclose retrieving other program information on a plurality of scheduled dates selected by a user, but asserts that Inoue discloses above mentioned features, and refers to Inoue, paragraphs [0100] and [0015]. Thus, Inoue, paragraphs [0086], [0100] and [0115] are reproduced as follows:

[0086] FIG. 4 is a diagram schematically showing the data structure of the day-of-week EPG. As described above, in the day-of-week EPG, the TV program tables **for eight days from today to the same day-of-week next week** are displayed for each day. Namely, it may be considered such that one TV program table for all channels for each day-of-week is one sheet of a day-of-week EPG sheet 38 and that such a **day-of-week EPG 38 is prepared for each day from today until 7 days ahead**. Therefore, if the user specifies "today" in the day-of-week tab 34 in FIG. 3, the program table for today is displayed as shown in FIG. 3. If the user specifies "14 (Sun)" in the day-of-week tab 34 in FIG. 3, the

program table for May 14.sup.th, 2000 (which is tomorrow) is displayed.

[0100] In this manner, by constituting the receiving apparatus 1 such that the program table from AM 00:00 on the day-of-week after the change is displayed when the day-of-week is changed, it is possible for the user to view the program on that day in the order of time from the first program. In contrast to this, after the change of the day-of-week, the program table for the time band same as before the change may be displayed. In this case, since the time band of the program table displayed after the change depends on the time band at the time of instructing the change of the day-of-week, it is difficult for the user to instinctively grasp the time band after the change. From this point of view, by always displaying the program table from a predetermined time after the change, since the program table is always displayed from the predetermine time after the change regardless of the time band before the change of the day-of-week, it is easy for the user to instinctively grasp the time band of the displayed program table and thereby search for the program.

[0115] Then, the EPG display data for 8 days from today i.e., the day of currently viewing the program is obtained as the data for the day-of-week cells of the day-of-week EPG, on the basis of the date and time data and the day-of-week data determined in the above mentioned manner (step S8). As described before, the EPG text data are stored in the RAM 16, which have been made of the all stations SI as the source. Thus, the CPU 17 obtains the corresponding data within the RAM 16, and combines it with the font data within the ROM 15 and the graphic data within the flash memory 14, to thereby constitute the EPG display data and store it into the working memory. The EPG display data constituted in this manner schematically becomes as the image shown in FIG. 4.

Applicants submit that in Inoue, the day-of-week EPG displays the TV program tables for eight days from today to the same day-of-week next week, *i.e.*, **the day-of-week EPG can NOT display the TV program table on a past date**. Thus, Inoue fails to disclose or render predictable “acquiring means for acquiring a plurality of pieces of program information about programs to be broadcast on a plurality of scheduled dates selected by a user, wherein the

plurality of scheduled dates include a current date, past dates and future dates,” as recited in claim 1

Furthermore, this deficiency of Inoue is not cured by the supplemental teaching of Bowser or Oral or Knudson.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is patentable and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

For reasons similar to, or somewhat similar to, those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claims 5-7 are also patentable, and Applicants thus respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections thereto.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Applicants thereby respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of rejections thereto. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Because Applicants maintain that all claims are allowable for at least the reasons presented hereinabove, in the interests of brevity, this response does not comment on each and every comment made by the Examiner in the Office Action. This should not be taken as

acquiescence of the substance of those comments, and Applicants reserve the right to address such comments.

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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